ACADEMIC COURSES:

Language Arts (Standard)
The ELA curriculum in grade 8 is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. Our focus shifts in 8th grade to teaching students how analyze what they read and then extend on the ideas through their own background information and other sources. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of texts that students will need to understand for their futures, academic and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice necessary skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Language Arts 8th (Advanced)
The ELA advanced curriculum in grade 8 is recommended for students who read at grade level or higher. The pace is faster and the content is more rigorous than a regular ELA class and is not for remediation. ELA is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. Our focus shifts in 8th grade to teaching students how analyze what they read and then extend on the ideas through their own background information and other sources. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of high-level texts that students will need to understand for their futures – high school honors, college, and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice practical skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

The eighth grade language arts curriculum consists of reading, composition, speech, media literacy, literature, and vocabulary development. Students will read a variety of genres (short stories, novels, drama, poetry, non-action) for content and meaning while practicing reading strategies. Students will enhance their writing skills through persuasive and expository writing, producing a variety of finished products, including poems, summaries, reviews, and essays. Students will be expected to recognize audience, and purpose when speaking formally and informally in a variety of situations.

Pre-Algebra (8th Grade Standard Math)
Students will:
• Analyze and represent linear functions and solve linear equations and systems of equations.
• Analyze two and three dimensional figures by using distance and angle relationships.
• Analyze and summarize data sets including box and whisker plots, scatter plots and lines of best fit
• Compare, contrast and convert between customary and metric systems.
• Solve one and two step inequalities with one variable.
• Perform operations on real numbers using multi-step and real world problems.

Algebra I (High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the first week of the 1st Nine Weeks)
This course is designed to provide the foundation for future secondary mathematics courses and develop skills needed to solve mathematical problems. Topics shall include, but are not limited to, functions, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, operations with radical expressions, solving quadratic equations, ratios and proportions.

Algebra I Honors (High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the first week of the 1st Nine Weeks)
This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the topics included in Algebra I, as well as absolute value equations and inequalities, operations with rational expressions, solving rational equations and characteristics of quadratic graphs.

Geometry Honors (High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the first week of the 1st Nine Weeks)
This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the practical applications of geometric skills and concepts in the real world, as well as, but not limited to, truth tables, vectors, Fibonacci sequence, coordinate geometry proofs, proofs involving circles, and problems involving cross sections of solids.
Comprehensive Science
A comprehensive science course that has been designed to support understanding through big ideas in science. Based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science, this course will allow students to learn content across six interconnected units that will build from the content covered in 6th grade and 7th grades. The major concepts covered: Rate of Change, Technology and Travel, All Spheres including Biosphere, Evolution, Organization of Organisms, Homeostasis in Humans. The class will be supported by digital content as well as hands-on, cooperative, and literacy based activities. Students in Advanced and Gifted classes will be provided opportunities to dive deeper into the content and to make even more connections across science and with other disciplines.

Environmental Honors Science Course (High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the first week of the 1st Nine Weeks)
The goal of the Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study.
This course expects students be capable of comprehending scientific concepts presented at an advanced level. Laboratory activities are a significant component in the course and offer students an opportunity to become familiar with scientific instruments and experimental methods.
Students taking this class:
- Earn a high school honors science credit.
- Will be required to take the FSA Science 8th Grade test, so they will be learning all the required standards of 8th grade science concurrently.
- Will be required to take a semester elective entitled Digital Research designed to prepare students for successful writing in AP high school classes. (This course will only be offered to Environmental students).
- A Pre-Requisite for this class is 7th Grade Gifted/Advanced Science

United States History (Standard)
The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. The student will examine political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the Exploration Period through Reconstruction, with special emphasis on Florida's role. The course of study should include, but is not limited to: the impact of expansion on the development of America; political, social, and economics conflicts and compromise; influence of diverse groups on cultural development of the U.S.; key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. The curriculum covered in this course meets the Florida Middle School Civics requirement.

United States History (Advanced)
The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. The student will examine political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the Exploration Period through Reconstruction, with special emphasis on Florida's role. The course of study should include, but is not limited to: the impact of expansion on the development of America; political, social, and economics conflicts and compromise; influence of diverse groups on cultural development of the U.S.; key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. The curriculum covered in this course meets the Florida Middle School Civics requirement. Note: This course was developed to a more rigorous in-depth study of United States History utilizing challenging reading, writing, and research assignments.

Pre-Advanced Placement United States History (Pre-AP US History)
The Pre-AP United States History course will teach students how to organize and to analyze historical information. This course requires extensive reading, writing, research and participation. The course content includes the following units: Colonial/Revolution Era, Development of Constitutional America, The Expanding Nation - Economic Growth and Development of the U.S., and U.S. Comes of Age in the 20th Century. This course is intended to prepare students to take Advanced Placement courses in high school.
ELECTIVE COURSES (YEAR LONG)

**Beginning Band - Band 1 (Year-Long)**
No previous musical experience is required. Students will learn the basics of instrument fundamental, reading music and rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Students will have an opportunity to participate in various musical performances throughout the year. Instruments taught in Band are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and orchestral percussion. *Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Concert Band - Band II (Year-Long)**
Concert Band is open to students at an intermediate level of development. Students should be proficient in music reading, scales, tone production, and articulation. All of the basic techniques that were introduced in Beginning Band are further developed in Concert Band. Greater emphasis is placed upon performing band music at an intermediate level. Students will have after school rehearsals when necessary for concert preparation. *Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Symphonic Band-Band III (Year Long)**
This is a year-long accelerated advanced-level instrumental class for students who have successfully completed at least one year of Beginning Band and/or Concert Band. Students will be given challenging opportunities to develop a higher level of musicianship and performance skills through the study of different levels of styles of band literature. Students will participate in concerts, Music Performance Assessment, and performance activities that enhance the school music program and school. *Placement in this class is by Director recommendation only. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Jazz Ensemble- Band IV (Year Long)**
A placement audition is required for Jazz Band. The course explores the rhythmic and improvisational skills uses to perform jazz as well as the stylistic and historical understanding. Students will study the three basic types of jazz: rock, swing and Latin. The instrumentation for this jazz ensemble may consist of but not limited to trumpets, saxophones, trombones, bass guitar, guitar, drum set and keyboard. *Placement in this class is by Director recommendation only. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Chorus I (Year Long)**
Students will learn the basics of vocal techniques and musical notation through singing and performing a variety of age appropriate choral music. No previous musical experience is required. *Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Chorus II (Year Long)**
Students will perform a variety of choral music while continuing to improve vocal and performance techniques and sight-singing. Choral Director approval is required. *Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.*

**Digital Art (Year Long)**
During Semester 1 Students explore the fundamental concepts, terminology, techniques, and applications of traditional art. While in Semester 2, students produce digital still and/or animated images through the single or combined use of computers, digital cameras, digital video cameras, scanners, photo editing software, drawing and painting software, graphic tablets, printers, new media, and emerging technologies. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers to measure artistic growth. This course incorporates hands-on activities, the use of technology, and consumption of art materials.

**Leadership - Engaged Citizenship through Service Learning 1 (Year-Long)**
This course provides an introduction to service-learning and civic responsibility for Grades 7, and 8. Academic, personal and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school and/or community needs. In order to develop leadership skills and positive habits that will allow students to be successful with service-learning, we will incorporate author Sean Covey’s *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* as the primary text for the course. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences for at least 20 hours during the school year. *Note: Students are required to complete an application for consideration of this course.*
Physical Education/ Comprehensive PE (Year Long)
The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

Spanish I (Year Long) High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the first week of the 1st Nine Weeks
This course is designed to emphasize speaking and listening skills with students’ oral participation in the target language. Reading and writing are introduced and basic grammar structures explained. Students will be introduced to the culture and customs of various Spanish speaking countries. Note: Students who request this course will be chosen by lottery until all available spaces are filled.

TV Production (Year Long)
Students in this advanced T.V. production class will be responsible for the morning announcements and week in review news magazine show. Students will continue to improve their shooting, editing, and studio skills. They will also receive more challenges in written journalism, including writing news stories. In addition to the daily “news,” students will provide any commercials, promos, tutorials, web content, etc., that are requested from administrators or other teachers. Students’ knowledge will also be measured through bell work and reflections. Teacher recommendation required.

Yearbook (Year Long)
Students must apply for this class in the spring of the previous school year. The application looks at Language Arts grades, writing ability, and character. This year-long course will give students real-world experience on how to make a product, market the product, and obtain advertisements to help fund the product. Because the product is the yearbook, students will learn photography, journalism, and graphic design skills required in covering and documenting the year at Rock Lake Middle School.

ELECTIVE COURSES (SEMESTER)

Art 3D (Semester)
Students learn to translate their two-dimensional skills into three-dimensional forms through the exploration of natural, abstract, and synthetic sculptural forms using materials that may include, but are not limited to, clay, plaster, and mixed media for creative expression. These student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills in a sculptural context as they design and produce works of art with personal expression.

Critical Thinking (Semester)
Gain strategies to find important information quickly, transfer it to long-term memory, and perform better on assignments and tests. You will learn to become a more efficient learner, find balance, and prioritize goals.

Digital Research (Semester) *Only students enrolled in the Environmental Science Class will be enrolled in this class.
Digital Research is a college preparatory course that gives students a foundation of academic written and verbal communication techniques. Students explore the elements required to produce the final product of research-based assignments. Elements include, digital researching methods, annotated bibliography creation, reference formatting, proper use of in-text citations, audio/visual presentation creation, written report structuring and formatting, and speech preparation.
**Exploratory Wheel – Introduction to Foreign Language**

**Option A): Spanish (Semester)**
This course is designed to introduce students to a foreign language. During the semester students will explore basic principles of Spanish Language, the cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world and compare the students’ own language and culture with that of Spanish-speaking countries. In addition, fundamentals of Latin vocabulary will be introduced to emphasize a better understanding and a more precise use of English.

**Option B): French (Semester)**
This semester course is a beginning exploratory course that will introduce students to French language and culture. This course introduces students to the French language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills in listening and speaking and an introduction to basic skills in reading and writing. Also, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this semester course. In addition, fundamentals of Latin vocabulary will be introduced to emphasize a better understanding and a more precise use of English.

**Fundamentals of Finance (Semester)**
This course provides students with opportunities to acquire foundational knowledge and skills suitable for pursuing higher level programs of study related to the information technology industry.

**iChallenge (Semester)**
Are you ready for your future? By the year 2020 there will be 1.4 million computing jobs and only 400,000 Computer Science students. With so many opportunities in Computer Science, choose iChallenge and learn about this growing field and how it will impact your future, regardless of the career you choose! This coding and game based course will allow you to earn a digital tool certificate and prepare you to take AP Computer Science Principles in high school. This class uses a combination of online learning, teacher instruction, and project based learning. You will have the ability to choose projects that excite you, with topics you want to learn more about relating to coding and Computer Science. “Coding is today’s language of creativity. All our children deserve a chance to become creators instead of consumers of computer science” (Maria Klawe). This course provides an opportunity to earn one digital tool certificate.

**iConnect (Semester)**
How much do you know about technology? Discover how “Technology, like art, is a soaring exercise of the human imagination” (Daniel Bell). This semester, you will discover new possibilities and learn about technology applications and communication techniques through this innovative and interactive course. In addition, you will have the opportunity to “show off” your skills by producing a culminating activity that includes your favorite projects from the course and will be added to your ePortfolio! This course provides an opportunity to earn two digital tool certificates.

**Speech & Debate (Semester)**
The goal of this course is for students to be able to organize and effectively deliver speeches that entertain, inform and persuade and are supported with evidence from text and research.

**TV Production (Semester)**
This semester-long class will teach students how to properly shoot and edit video with a professional camera. Students will also learn the basic skills of operating T.V. studio equipment and presenting themselves on camera. Students will learn shot composition, how to edit on Adobe Premiere Element, and get an introduction to studio equipment (Newtek TC 40). Students will shoot and assemble many audio/visual projects that they will be graded on. Some project will include writing project summaries, scripts and story boards. Students will also be graded on their performance and operation of studio equipment. Students’ knowledge of the subject will also be assessed through bell work, reflections and lesson review assignments.
Web Design (Semester)
In this course, students will learn how to safely navigate within the electronics-based society of today, as well as how to create web pages using HTML5 coding and drag-and-drop programming. This process includes many hands-on projects and group interactions as we explore issues that affect cybersecurity and as we plan our own websites. This course allows students to earn certifications in ICT Cybersecurity Essentials and ICT Web Design essentials by taking an industry respected certification test.

ePathways (Classes through Seminole County Virtual School)
Seminole County Schools recognize that today's students learn using multiple methods, at different rates, and on different schedules. Our schools now offer the flexibility to accommodate today's students and families through a variety of educational pathways.

Full-time and part-time virtual coursework is available to students in grade six through twelve. These programs offer a wide-range of acceleration opportunities, as well as credit recovery and remediation, through blended schedules that permit students to take some face-to-face courses and some virtual courses, depending on each student's most optimal learning situation.

Students can choose the learning pathway that best suits their learning style, personal interests, and academic strengths. Students have a variety of course options, both core and elective, that can be taken in a modern classroom setting or in a virtual environment.

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
  This course is a virtual class, where students will have access to a computer during a class period to complete work assigned for their assigned virtual teacher. Gain strategies to find important information quickly, transfer it to long-term memory, and perform better on assignments and tests. You will learn to become a more efficient learner, find balance, and prioritize goals.

- Comprehensive PE (Semester) 8th Grade
  This course is a virtual class, where students will have access to a computer during a class period to complete work assigned for their assigned virtual teacher. This course will provide you with practice in diverse sports skills and game strategy, leading to a physically active lifestyle. You will explore nutrition and peer pressure while learning how to make effective decisions.